

## **Appendix H: Foster Care Prevention Guidelines**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Foster care prevention services are designed to strengthen the family's ability to function more effectively and independently in order to prevent family breakup and to reunite as soon as possible if a breakup is necessary.

The philosophy guiding prevention services require a community-based, family-focused, child-centered approach to service delivery. The foundation is the belief that the family is, and should continue to be, the central structure around which a caring and self-sufficient society must be built. The family is the best environment for raising children and caring for vulnerable members. Accordingly, the family must be able to provide the necessary nurture, protection, shelter, and education for its members.

For these services, a family means an adult(s) and children under age eighteen related by blood, marriage, adoption, or an expression of kinship who function as a family unit.

### **NON-CSA ALTERNATIVE FUNDING RESOURCES**

Protective Services (DSS Policy Volume VII, Section III, Chapter A)

This alternative funding resource applies to children who are risk of foster care placement due to child abuse and neglect.

Prevention and Support for Families (DSS Policy Volume VII, Section II, Chapter E) This alternative funding resource applies to services provided to families to strengthen the family's ability to function more effectively and prevent child abuse and neglect.

### **TARGET POPULATIONS**

Prevention cases are those in which intervention is needed to prevent foster care placement of a child, or to prevent non-custodial foster care in which an agency and a parent agree to place a child with the parent retaining legal custody. The child must be at risk of removal from their home and placement into foster care. The focus of services should be on maintaining and strengthening the family unit while ensuring the safety of the child and individual family members.

Services will be short-term and may be intensive in order to address and resolve immediate crises that threaten family integrity and safety.

#### **A. Mandated Cases**

Cases served under the Foster Care Prevention category must meet the following requirements:

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- 1) The child's safety will not be at risk by maintaining him or her in the home.
- 2) The child must be at risk of removal and placement into foster care within six months of the date the need for services is identified.
- 3) The goal for the family is to maintain the child in the home.
- 4) The services to be funded are necessary to the Individual Family Service Plan and to the goal of maintaining the child in his or her current family.
- 5) The services to be funded (or provided) can be accomplished within six months. The provision of services beyond six months requires prior approval by the Virginia Department of Social Services. For guidelines on obtaining approval for extensions beyond six months, see page 4 of this appendix.
- 6) If services are purchased, the provider of services must meet appropriate and relevant standards and the case must comply with requirements of the Comprehensive Services Act including utilization management.

### **B. Support and Stabilization Cases (Non-Mandated)**

Cases which may be served under the Foster Care Prevention category (to the extent that funds are available) include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Cases in which short-term intervention is needed to stabilize the family's or child's situation and/or to provide family support when the child is not at immediate risk of removal from his home.
- 2) Cases in which support services are needed to enhance parental or family capacities to care for and nurture the child(ren).
- 3) Cases in which short-term support is needed to maintain the family when a parent/caretaker has temporarily lost the capacity to care for and nurture the child.

## **REFERRALS TO FAMILY ASSESSEMENT AND PLANNING TEAMS (FAPT)**

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The Community Policy and Management Team shall establish policies governing the referral of youth and their families to the Family Assessment and Planning Teams. These policies include that all youth and their families which CSA funded treatment services are requested are to be assessed by the Family Assessment and Planning Team or a collaborative, multidisciplinary team process approved by the State Executive Council and shall consider criteria set out in the (Code of Virginia) §2.2-5211 <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+2.2-5211> and §2.2-5212 <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+2.2-5212> except for cases involving only the payment of foster care maintenance, which shall be at the discretion of the local Community Policy and Management Team, ***cases for which service plan are developed outside of this Family Assessment and Planning Team process shall not be eligible for state pool funds. (See section 3.1.5., page 10, of the CSA Manual, Referrals to Family Assessment and Planning Teams.)***

### SERVICE PROVISION

Various services may be provided directly, purchased through approved providers, or provided through referral to other community resources. Any service may be purchased to prevent foster care placement and/or to stabilize the family situation, provided the need for the service is documented in the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). These services may include the purchase of emergency shelter, food, clothing, utilities or rent when no other resources are available and a lack of these resources becomes life threatening or may result in foster care placement. Other services which may be provided directly or purchased include, but are not limited to:

- A. Assessment
- B. Case work and group work
- C. Counseling and treatment
- D. Court activities
- E. Day care for children
- F. Developmental day care for children
- G. Substance abuse services
- H. Education and training
- I. Emergency shelter and other emergency needs
- J. Family and personal adjustment counseling
- K. Family planning
- L. Health related services
- M. Health screening and treatment (EPSDT)
- N. Homemaker/home management services
- O. Housing
- P. Intensive intervention services (home- and community-based)
- Q. Legal services

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- R. Nutrition related services
- S. Referral to other resources
- T. Resource development
- U. Respite care
- V. Service planning
- W. Services to specified disabled individuals
- X. Socialization and recreation
- Y. Transportation

### REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENDING FOSTER CARE PREVENTION SERVICES BEYOND THE INITIAL SIX MONTHS

The use of State Pool Funds to provide or purchase foster care prevention services beyond the initial six month period must meet the following requirements:

1. Provision of the services is essential to preventing an out of home placement into foster care.
2. The family, the Family Assessment and Planning Team (where appropriate), and other involved individuals and community organizations are in general agreement, as reflected in the Individual Family Service Plan, that the services will be beneficial to the family and child and necessary to prevent out of home placement.
3. CSA funding is limited to six months unless the Foster Care Prevention Extension is submitted and approved by the appropriate DSS Regional Foster Care Program Consultant.

CSA funding can be utilized only if the above referenced, **NON-CSA ALTERNATIVE FUNDING RESORUCES**, are not available. CSA funding is limited to six months unless the Foster Care Prevention Extension is submitted and approved by the appropriate DSS Regional Foster Care Program Consultant prior to the expiration of the initial six months of services.

### Approval Procedures for Extensions

1. A written request for review and approval must be sent to the Foster Care Program Consultant within the appropriate regional office of the Virginia Department of Social Services prior to the completion of the initial six months of services.
2. The written request must contain the following information:
  - a. documentation of FAPT approval;

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- b. a written statement signed by the FAPT that all CSA utilization management requirements have been met;
  - c. the specific non-residential services to be provided;
  - d. the date services were originated;
  - e. the providers(s) of the service(s)
  - f. the costs of the services per unit (hour, week, etc.);
  - g. the total amount of funding requested;
  - h. the length of time the services will be provided;
  - i. a current copy of the Individual Family Service Plan demonstrating general agreement as to the need for the services;
  - j. a detailed description of the conditions causing the child(ren) to be at risk of placement into foster care;
  - k. a description of each of the alternatives that have been explored, and;
  - l. The email address of the person submitting the request.
3. The Foster Care Program Consultant will approve (or deny) the request in writing prior to the beginning of the extension unless concerns about policy, services, etc.; indicate the need to forward the request to the Coordinator of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program at the Virginia Department of Social Services for review. The Foster Care Program Consultant must forward copies of all requests and approvals/denials to the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Coordinator and to the state Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS).

### Mailing Addresses: Regional Office Foster Care Program Consultants

1. Foster Care Program Consultant: Eastern Region  
Pembroke Office Park  
Pembroke IV, Suite 300  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462-5479  
Phone: (757) 491-3990  
Fax: (757) 552-1156  
E-mail: [jhh993@eastern.state.va.us](mailto:jhh993@eastern.state.va.us)
2. Foster Care Program Consultant: Central Region  
1604 Santa Rosa Road  
Suite 130 - Wythe Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23229-5008  
Phone: (804) 662-9743  
Fax: (804) 662-7252  
E-mail: [gjc992@central.dss.state.va.us](mailto:gjc992@central.dss.state.va.us)
3. Foster Care Program Consultant: Piedmont Region  
Suite 100, Commonwealth of Virginia Building

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Phone: (540) 857-7920  
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4. Foster Care Program Consultant: Western Region  
190 Patton Street  
Abingdon, Virginia 24210  
Phone: (540) 676-5490  
Fax: (540) 676-5621  
E-mail: [brs904@western.dss.state.va.us](mailto:brs904@western.dss.state.va.us)
5. Foster Care Program Consultant: Northern Region  
170 W. Shirley Avenue  
Suite 200  
Warrenton, Virginia 20186  
Phone: (540) 347-6250  
Fax: (540) 347-6331  
E-mail: [jas995@northern.dss.state.va.us](mailto:jas995@northern.dss.state.va.us)

\*See next page for assignment of locality to region.

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### LOCALITIES LISTED BY SOCIAL SERVICES REGION

Please use the listing below to determine the appropriate regional Foster Care Program Consultant when submitting a request for extension of foster care prevention services beyond six months.

Northern Region	Eastern Region	Central Region	Piedmont Region	Western Region
Albemarle Alexandria  Arlington Bath Charlottesville Clarke Culpeper Fairfax Fauquier Fluvanna Frederick Greene Harrisonburg- Rockingham Highland Loudoun Louisa Madison Manassas Manassas Park Nelson Orange Page Prince William Rappahannock Rockbridge Area Shenandoah Staunton-Augusta- Waynesboro Warren Winchester	Accomack Chesapeake  Franklin City Hampton Isle Of Wight James City Newport News Norfolk Northampton Portsmouth Southampton Suffolk  Virginia Beach Williamsburg York-Poquoson	Caroline Charles City Chesterfield-Col. Heights Dinwiddie Essex Fredericksburg Gloucester Goochland Greensville-Emporia Hanover Henrico Hopewell  King And Queen King George King William Lancaster Mathews Middlesex New Kent Northumberland Petersburg Powhatan Prince George Richmond City Richmond Co Spotsylvania  Stafford Surry Sussex Westmoreland	Alleghany-Covington Amelia  Amherst Appomattox Bedford Botetourt Brunswick Buckingham Campbell Charlotte Craig Cumberland  Danville Franklin County Halifax Henry-Martinsville Lunenburg Lynchburg Mecklenburg Nottoway Patrick Pittsylvania Prince Edward Roanoke City Roanoke County	Bland Bristol  Buchanan Carroll Dickenson Floyd Galax Giles Grayson Lee Montgomery Norton  Pulaski Radford Russell Scott Smyth Tazewell Washington Wise Wythe